

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01930 130716Z

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ACTION EA-10

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R 130620Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4799  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1930

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDBS  
TAGS: SREF, HK, CH, TW  
SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM THE PRC

REF: A. HONG KONG 3839  
B. TAIPEI 1711

1. IN HIS SPEECH ON APRIL 4 TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE FREE CHINA RELIEF ASSOCIATION (FCRA), KU CHENG-KANG (6253/2973/4854) PRESIDENT OF THE FCRA, AGAIN REEMPHASIZED THE GROC'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT REFUGEES SAYING, "THE FREE CHINA RELIEF ASSOCIATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR GOVERNMENT, WILL BRING INTO TAIWAN THOSE WHO WISH TO COME AND HELP TO RESETTLE THEM. WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO AID OUR MAINLAND FREEDOM SEEKERS."

2. KU ALSO RECOUNTED IN DETAIL THE FCRA'S EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO COME FROM HONG KONG TO THE ROC. WE ARE UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IS THE APPROACH MENTIONED IN HONG KONG'S REF A. KU STATED THE FCRA HAD CABLED ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG, H.K. ROBERT DER (HSIEH PO-CHANG, 6200/0130/2490?)--PRESIDENT OF THE KOWLOON CHANGER OF COMMERCE--ASKING HIM TO REQUEST THE HKG PERMIT THOSE REFUGEES DETAINED BY THE HKG AND "WILLING" TO COME TO TAIWAN BE TRANSFERRED TO TAIWAN AS "TRANSIT PASSENGERS". ACCORDING TO KU AFTER DER'S CONSULTATIONS WITH HKG IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR, J.M. ROWLANDS, THE HKG REFUSED HIS REQUEST.

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EM IF FCRA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG DID MAKE THIS APPROACH TO THE HKG AND IT WAS REFUSED, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE EFFORT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS AN ATTEMPT ON THE GROC'S PART TO ASSIST RECENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN COMING TO TAIWAN. EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT GROC WOULD NOT WELCOME LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES.

4. IF HONG KONG CAN CONFIRM FACTS IN PARA (2) ABOVE, WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SO STATE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES. WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "...TAIWAN OVER THE YEARS HAS ACCEPTED SOME OF THE LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ENTER HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH TAIWAN DOES NOT HAVE A PROGRAM TO ACCEPT LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FREE CHINA RELIEF ASSOCIATION APPROACHED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN JANUARY (DECEMBER?) IN AN ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE TRANSIT FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO TAIWAN WHO WERE WILLING TO GO TO TAIWAN, BUT THE TWO PARTIES WERE UNABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO ACCEPT LEGAL OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM HONG KONG IS A QUESTION TO BE SETTLED BETWEEN TAIWAN AND HONG KONG AND IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER."  
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